

Advisory Committee Meeting #1 – Summary

FINAL

Date: May 23, 2013
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Location: Kirkland City Hall, Rose Hill Room, 123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA

In attendance:

Project staff

- Don Anderson
City of Kirkland
- Kari Page
City of Kirkland
- Don Samdahl
Fehr & Peers
- Kendra Breiland
Fehr & Peers
- Kristine Edens
EnviroIssues
- Dennis Sandstrom
EnviroIssues
- Kurt Ahrensfield
Perteet

Committee Members

- Mike Haschak
Kirkland Fire
- Bryan McNaghten
Kirkland Police
- Lisa Broulette
Kirkland Police
- Jon Pascal
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance
- Pierre Geurts
Finn Hill Neighborhood, At Large
- Norm Storme
Juanita Neighborhoods Association
- Scott Emry
Lake Washington School District

- Janice Gerrish
King County Parks Trail Board
- Sharon Clausson
King County Parks Staff
- Lance Carter
Juanita Businesses
- Nima Salestani
Finn Hill Businesses
- Daniel Weise
Cascade Bicycle Club
- Daniel Clark
Bastyr University

Committee Members not in attendance:

- Tedd McCagg, Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance
- Representative for King County Metro (TBD)

Materials:

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| • Agenda | • Map: Total Collisions (2009-2012) | • Map: Corridor Hotspots and Constraints |
| • Advisory Committee Operating Guidelines | • Map: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities | • Functional Classifications and Context |
| • Project Fact Sheet | • Map: Sight Distance Issues and Concerns | ○ Map: Opportunities |
| • Initial Stakeholder Outreach Summary | • Map: Drainage Issues and Concerns | ○ Town Center Zone |
| • Map: Daily Weekday Average Traffic Volume | | ○ Neighborhood-Serving Zone |
| | | ○ Nature-Focus Zone |

Welcome and Introductions

Don Anderson welcomed the Juanita Drive Master Plan Corridor Study Advisory Committee (Committee) members and thanked them for agreeing to participate. He then introduced the rest of the project team.

Don Samdahl reviewed the meeting agenda and encouraged the Committee to ask questions during the presentation. He then asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves and share what issues they are most interested in addressing through the Corridor Study process:

- Scott Emry: Ensuring connectivity to schools.
- Pierre Geurts: Connections to schools for students who walk or bike that do not necessarily depend on commuting on Juanita Drive.
- Norm Storme: Learning about the true scope of the project and helping to achieve a final result that will benefit the community.
- Daniel Weise: Improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Bryan McNaghten: Safety for all modes of traffic using the corridor.
- Lisa Broulette: Safety for all modes of traffic using the corridor, including during special events.
- Sharon Clausson: General safety in the corridor and an improved connection between the two sides of Finn Hill Park.
- Janice Gerrish: The historical and future aspects of the neighborhoods that Juanita Drive serves and the concern that improvements could divide them; safety is her number one concern; and she would also like to maintain a multiuse function.
- Lance Carter: Improving safety along the corridor.
- Daniel Clark: Improving safety.
- Jon Pascal: Improving safety and connectivity between various neighborhood features, as well as keeping an open mind for improvements since not all solutions will fit the unique sections of the corridor.
- Mike Haschak: Ensuring citizen safety and would like to bring the corridor up to code with fire hydrants and turning radii.

Don Anderson then asked members to provide an alternate if they are unable to make any scheduled meeting; three more meetings are anticipated before the report is finalized.

Committee Role and Responsibilities

Kristine Edens reviewed the Advisory Committee Operating Guidelines, which includes expectations for each member and number of anticipated meetings. She then reviewed the meeting expectations:

- Everyone will have an opportunity to participate
- Respect time for others
- New ideas and different opinions are encouraged
- Facilitator will keep time, group on task and table discussions

No additions or modifications to the meeting expectations were suggested by the Committee.

Overview of Study

Don Samdahl shared with the Committee the Guiding Principles for the project, which were developed after initial conversations with stakeholders at the outset of the project:

- Address safety needs for all travel modes
- Maintain the corridor's unique identity, diversity of roadway character, and natural landscape
- Respect neighborhood values and engage the community in a shared vision for future improvements
- Protect the extraordinary natural environment and encourage low impact design approaches

- Provide a financially feasible, strategic, and realistic set of community priorities for the corridor.

Don Samdahl then reviewed the project schedule and scope. The scope of work includes a robust public outreach effort, and developing a corridor profile, needs assessment, alternatives and a Corridor Master Plan for Juanita Drive. The City hopes to have a final plan by the end of the year in time for inclusion in the 2015-2020 Citywide Capital Improvement Program, being developed in 2014.

Don Anderson then shared the City's motivation for studying the Juanita Corridor. Since the most recent neighborhoods were annexed in to the City, many residents have shared their concerns for safety and mobility within this Corridor. Norm Storme asked if the City will identify alignment pinch points, as well as provide demarcations for future development. Don Anderson said the City will be identifying constraints and will keep in mind future development.

Identification of Issues

Kendra reviewed the results of the stakeholder interviews conducted by the City and project team at the outset of the planning process, provided to the Committee in the Initial Stakeholder Outreach Summary at the meeting. Those interviewed represented a diverse group of perspectives and organizations that utilize the Juanita Drive Corridor, including some of the Committee Members.

The most common issue for everyone interviewed was safety for all modes of traffic. Many also recognized the potential for the corridor to be improved, although constraints do exist. Several interviewed expressed interest in seeing short-term improvements completed, but look forward to longer-term, more major improvements in the future. Also mentioned in several interviews was concern for the current and future affects of tolling in the region on Juanita Drive.

Don Samdahl then shared the project team's initial observations of the corridor and encouraged the Committee to add their thoughts as items were discussed.

Traffic volumes:

- South-eastern section of the roadway carries nearly 18,000 daily weekday trips on average; a consistent flow of traffic during the peak hours.
- Middle of the corridor drops down to about 11,000 average weekday trips, but volumes pick back up again towards the northern limits at around 12,000 average weekday trips.

Lance Carter asked if the team knew how much traffic had increased since tolling began on 520. Don Samdahl said that there has been a small increase of about 1-2%. Jon Pascal added that Finn Hill Neighborhood studied the issue and found that there has not been much change at the southern end of the corridor, but the northern end has seen more of an increase.

Total collisions:

- Since 2009 – 2012, there were a total of 135 collisions; most were single car collisions and about 65% of two-car accidents were rear-end collisions.
 - A quarter of the collisions were in the evening
 - In this time period there was only one reported pedestrian collision
- Locations marked on the Total Collisions handout represent two-thirds of all collisions
 - Circles represent problems at intersections
 - Have noticed an extensive number of speeding vehicles

- Most of the collisions occurred at the location just west of Juanita Beach Park

Janice Gerrish has noticed a lot of automobile glass in the middle of the road near Michael's by 98th. Jon Pascal asked that the project team consider collecting a wider time range of data on fatality collisions – including historical and more recent data. Unfortunately, there was a fatality in 2013. Don Samdahl said they will take into consideration a wider scope of data regarding fatalities.

Pierre Geurts shared with the Committee the fact that the neighborhood between Juanita Beach Park and Juanita Woodlands Park only has four exits, all on Juanita Drive; on the handout, each exit was marked with either yellow or orange on the collisions map.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:

- Currently, no consistent designated bicycle or pedestrian facilities exist on Juanita Drive
- Trash receptacles and parking on the shoulder also impede bicycle or pedestrian traffic

Kurt then discussed the initial observations on sight distances:

- There are several areas of concern related to the number of driveways, vegetation, etc.
- Additional issues include a lack of turn pockets, people coming out of the driveways, and left turn protection.

Jon Pascal asked if there are any sight distance issues with the exit from Finn Hill Park. Kurt said he did not notice an issue at this section of the corridor, but would look at it again.

Norm Storme asked if right of way varied throughout the corridor. Don Samdahl said that right of way is definitely a constraint the project will have to work around and that the project team is just starting to investigate where the roadway ends, right of way locations and property lines.

Jon Pascal asked if the team had collected any speed data and, if so, expressed interest in layering that on top of the sight distances map. Don Samdahl said they had just received the data and are studying it now.

Drainage:

- Biggest issue is at the south end of the corridor due to steep slopes of the hillside and concerns with flow during freezing.
- Sheet flow (flow coming down hillsides or slopes) has also been a concern with flooding for those corridor's down slopes.
- It is critical to address drainage issues before any future improvements to Juanita Drive can be made.

Daniel Clark asked if any tributary streams cross the roadway. Kurt Ahrensfield said there are several, but they have not yet been documented. Norm Storme asked if the project would mark which of the tributaries are fish carrying. Don Anderson said that studying whether a stream carries fish is not part of this study, but the project will use current reports.

Janice Gerrish added that on the hill there is a spring that used to service several wells in the neighborhoods, which usually does not cause an issue unless the watertable is high. Daniel Clark also added that wildlife tend to follow the path of the springs that run through that area.

Don Samdahl then shared the corridor hotspots the team has initially identified. With the information the team has so far in the process, several locations have been identified that seem to be the most important to improve, which are highlighted on the Corridor Hotspots and Constraints maps.

Jon Pascal suggested another hotspot to consider is the intersection of 138th; residents in this area consider it a safety concern.

Identification of Opportunities

Kendra then reviewed what the team has initially identified as opportunities, though more work and investigation is expected. The team is keeping in mind a context-sensitive solution and the various characteristics of the corridor. The team identified three corridor types: Town Center Zone, Neighborhood Serving Zone, and Nature-Focused Zone. The team has also initially identified pedestrian/neighborhood connections, both on and off the corridor.

Sharon Clausson hoped the team would consider the corridor's potential, not just its current function. She noted that future improvements would attract more people, so improvements should consider increased use by all travel modes.

Janice Gerrish shared that Juanita Drive used to be made of dirt, gravel and some sections with old rotten logs.

Norm Storme asked the project to make sure that safe-to-school route requirements are considered. He then asked how the results of this study will be included in the Finn Hill Neighborhood Plan process. Don Anderson said the results of this plan will help that process, since this will be complete ahead of when their plan will be developed.

The Committee was then asked to provide additional input for the project team to consider. Comments were added to the project map board for further consideration.

Lance Carter asked if it would be possible to use rumble strips on the side of the road. Daniel Weise said that if the project goes this route, trash cans may force bikes on this. Jon Pascal asked if the rumble strips could be used down the middle of the road, as well. He then added that the City should make it clear that the buttons and rumble strips were a County practice, but are not a City one; when these are damaged or disappear, they are not being replaced by the City.

Sharon Clausson shared her observation that there seems to be that a lot of lane striping seems to be missing. Jon Pascal added that he realizes the City has a restriping program, but was not sure how often each road is done. Don Anderson said he was not sure the last time Juanita Drive was striped, but would look into it. Bryan McNaghten added that lighting is definitely a concern, as well as striping.

Norm Storme noted his appreciation for the speedometer device on the downhill by the golf course. Don Samdahl added that the initial results of the speed data show that most people seem to be driving about 5-10 mph over the speed limit and that the project may look at ways to slow people down through the corridor. Lisa Broulette said those devices do not tend to make people slow down and may actually encourage people to speed up.

Daniel Weise asked if the team had spoken with PSE about any potential future capital projects. Kurt Ahrensfield said the team has records from PSE and will look into future projects, as well.

Pierre Geurts asked if the project be considering noise abatement, since homes along the route on the downhill side are affected by this. This is a topic that gets brought up often in his neighborhood and he was asked to bring it up to the City and Committee.

Bryan McNaghten asked if the City has considered funneling people to 84th Avenue. Pierre Geurts said that there is no connection for this section of the neighborhood at the moment. Jon Pascal added that there are a couple of issues related to connectivity, including the connection between the two sides of Finn Hill Park, crossing the corridor north of 123rd Avenue and an off-road trail on the east side of Juanita Woodlands. Janice Gerrish said there is a plan to connect the two sides of Finn Hill Park, but it would need some upgrades across the corridor. Lance Carter asked if the potential to add a tunnel between both sides of Finn Hill Park. Sharon Clausson said there is a concern about the visibility and safety of tunnels.

Janice Gerrish asked if it would be possible to add smart signals to allow people, during peak periods, to travel either north or south one direction at a time to allow for safer turns.

Mike Haschak said that the Fire Department, and potentially the Police Department, is concerned with adding medians that slow down response times.

Jon Pascal asked if there is any potential for adding gateway features for the Finn Hill Neighborhood to the corridor. Several members of the Committee liked this idea.

Don Samdahl then encouraged people to send in their ideas to Don Anderson and Kari Page, including having those they know submit their ideas to the City's new map feature on their website.

Next Steps

Kristine Edens then shared the upcoming outreach opportunities where the team will have information about Juanita Drive, and take input from the public:

- May 29 – Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance
- June 5 – Kirkland Wednesday Market
- June 7 – Walk 'n' Roll Festival
- June 8 – Kirkland Planning Day
- June 12 – Juanita Drive Corridor Master Plan Community Workshop

The City is working hard to make sure that people have many opportunities to get involved and stay engaged.

Don Samdahl then worked with the Committee to set the date for the next few meetings. In general, Committee members stated that the 4 – 6 p.m. time frame worked best for them. The project team then committed to sending out a poll to the Committee to find the best dates for the next 2-3 meetings.

Kristine Edens added that the project is looking for a Metro Transit user to sit on the Committee. Jon Pascal suggested asking for a representative at the upcoming Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance Meeting.

Don Anderson concluded the meeting by encouraging members to go back to their group to share the information they received and encourage their other members to participate in the process.